(Prices Control) Order, 1995 does not make any distinction between Life Saving Drugs and other drugs. Fixation of prices of Scheduled drugs and formulations based thereon is an ongoing process and is undertaken by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995. The Drug Policy, as amended from time to time, is directed towards ensuring abundant availability of quality drugs at reasonable prices.

Cleaning up of the contamination in and around Union Carbide factory

522. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United States Court held that the Union Carbide Company to clean up the contamination in and around the abandoned factory in Bhopal if the Central Government and Madhya Pradesh Government agrees to cooperate;

(b) whether Government seek to intervene in their actions; and

(c) if so, the steps Government are taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN): (a) No sir, the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, New York in its order dated 17th March, 2004, while remanding the matter to the District Court for further proceedings with respect to Haseena Bi's claims of damage to her property observed that the District Court should be free to revisit its dismissal of claim for plant site remediation in the event that the Indian Government or the State of Madhya Pradesh seeks to intervene in the action or otherwise urges the Court to order such relief.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir, the Government of India in consultation with the State Government of Madhya Pradesh has conveyed to the United States District Court, Southern District of New York that neither the Madhya Pradesh State Government or its instrumentalities nor the Union of India has any objection to any such relief for environmental remediation of the former Union Carbide plant premises in Bhopal being ordered or directed by a competent court or tribunal of the United States. This letter has been filed on 28th June, 2004.